

Qatar National Day

Long history of peaceful ties across range of sectors

YOUSSEF MOHAMED BILAL

AMBASSADOR OF THE STATE OF QATAR



It gives me great honor, on the auspicious occasion of the National Day of the State of Qatar to convey, on behalf of the government and people of the State of Qatar, my deepest rever-

ence, warmest greetings and best wishes for good health and happiness to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the friendly people of Japan.

I would also like to take advantage of this opportunity to extend my heartiest greetings and felicitations to all my compatriots living in Japan and to our friends and business partners throughout Japan.

The annual celebration of Qatar's national day on Dec. 18 provides a renewed opportunity to reaffirm the allegiance, devotion and loyalty to our beloved country and wise leadership. Our pride on this great national occasion makes it imperative for us to work diligently to continue the work of our ancestors, adding greatness to our glorious past, drawing a distinctive picture of our future and accomplishing the process of a comprehensive renaissance under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani.

Day after day and generation after generation, time passes to prove that Qatar is a strong country, well established on solid foundations, fully capable to overcome all challenges. Its unstoppable locomotive of development is moving fast toward achieving our aspirations and promoting a society of knowledge and modernization.

The celebration of the national day this year comes in the shadow of the unjust blockade imposed on Qatar by sister countries, during which all values and norms were breached. During the six months of the imposition of a quadripartite blockade, Qatar has succeeded politically and diplomatically in managing the crisis and imposed its active presence and approach in international forums.

The misleading accusations leveled against the State of Qatar, regarding supporting and financing terrorism, have failed to convince the international community, especially the major powers and active countries in this field. Paradoxically, our originally good relations with these countries are now better than they were before the crisis. The State of Qatar has a well-known and documented counterterrorism record.

Despite the apparent injustice of the ongoing fabricated Gulf crisis, Qatar expressed its readiness for the settlement within the framework of dialogue based on mutual respect for sovereignty and joint commitments. The indicators we receive, however, revealed that the besieging countries are unwilling to reach a solution.

In this context, I would like to express our appreciation to Japan for its position calling on all parties to engage in dialogue to maintain the unity of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as its support for Kuwaiti mediation.

The negative impacts of the blockade were temporary and our economy has managed to contain most of them very quickly, while adapting and developing itself in the course of crisis management.

These campaigns have not affected our major exports of oil and gas. On the contrary, our respect for our gas export contracts — even to countries that have played a leading role in the campaign against our country — has boosted the



An Arabian coffee pot monument welcomes visitors to Doha. EMBASSY OF QATAR

confidence of the international community in our credibility to honor our commitments. For Japan, our largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) partner, not a single shipment of oil or gas has been delayed by the blockade.

We deeply cherish our excellent relations with Japan, as they are based on strong friendship and mutual cooperation built on reciprocal trust between the two countries' leaderships. For more than four decades, the strong political will of our countries has established solid foundations for bilateral cooperation in all areas of economy, trade, investment, development, culture, technology, science, defense and security.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. This event provides a new opportunity to reaffirm friendship, explore new areas of cooperation in various fields and renew our joint

resolve to further strengthen relations and promote them to higher levels.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the first shipment of Qatar LNG to Japan, which is the first Qatari LNG customer. Qatar has supplied more than 2,600 shipments of LNG to Japan over the past two decades. Qatar's commitment to Japan's energy needs is stronger today than ever, and we are working to strengthen future cooperation with Japan and build more solid business relationships.

The bilateral exchanges and interactions are important factors that give a strong impetus to enhance the bonds of friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding between our two friendly countries.

This year witnessed a number of bilateral meetings to discuss political and economic aspects and various training programs have been organized with a



A cannon sits in front of the historic Al Zubarah Fort. EMBASSY OF QATAR

view to transferring Japanese technology and experience in the education, health and sports sectors to Qatar.

Foreign Minister H.E. Taro Kono paid an official visit to Doha in September, during which the two countries discussed the bilateral relations and regional issues. In October, the 11th ministerial meeting of the Joint Economic Committee was held in Tokyo, and the two sides exchanged views on economic ties, energy issues and various areas of cooperation.

In November, Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary General H.E. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi visited Japan, heading the Qatari delegation in the third round of political consultations between the two countries. The two sides discussed means of enhancing and developing friendly bilateral relations and the situations in the Arabian Gulf and Middle East. During this visit, the two countries exchanged official notes on measures con-

cerning the waiver of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic, official, and private passports from the two countries and the granting of entry permits at airports for a period of 90 days, starting Jan. 1.

We are confident that the bilateral relations between the State of Qatar and Japan will continue to grow at a rapid pace to gain further momentum and develop into a new level of relations and move quickly to the consolidation of a comprehensive strategic partnership that benefits both our friendly countries and peoples.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to The Japan Times for giving me this opportunity to address its distinguished readers and celebrate our national day, highlighting the depth and strength of the Qatar-Japan friendly relations. I would like to take advantage of the advent of 2018 to extend to everyone my best wishes for a very happy, peaceful and prosperous new year.

On the occasion of Qatar National Day
Our Warmest Congratulations to

**His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani,
Emir of the State of Qatar**

Chiyoda is proud to be a part of the success and prosperity
of Qatar under the outstanding leadership of His Highness The Emir.



Minato Mirai Grand Central Tower
4-6-2, Minatomirai, Nishi-ku
Yokohama 220-8765, Japan
<http://www.chiyodacorp.com/en>

Congratulations

to His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day



Chubu Electric Power Co., Inc.

1, Higashi-shincho, Higashi-ku, Nagoya 461-8680, Japan
Tel: 052-951-8211
www.chuden.co.jp/english

Congratulations

to His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day



Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd.

<http://www.idemitsu.com/>
7-2, Marunouchi 2-chome,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-7028, Japan
Tel: +81-3-3213-3171

Congratulations

to His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day



ITOCHU Corporation

<https://www.itochu.co.jp/en/>

Congratulations on the National Day
to His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar



Qatargas Operating Company Limited

P.O. Box: 22666 Doha, Qatar
Tel: (974) 4473-6000 Fax: (974) 4473-6666
Japan Liaison Office Tokyo Tel: 03-3517-2811 Fax: 03-3279-5677
Nagoya Tel: 052-952-8661 Fax: 052-952-8666
www.qatargas.com.qa

Congratulations

to His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day

Japan-Qatar Friendship Association

Chairman: Toshio Mita

Congratulations

to His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day



**LNG JAPAN
CORPORATION**
<http://www.lngjapan.com>

Qatar National Day

A strong and trusting relationship

TOSHIO MITA
CHAIRMAN OF JAPAN-QATAR FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Japan-Qatar Friendship Association (JQFA), I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the Emir of the State of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-

Thani and the people of the State of Qatar on their 46th National Day.

Although there is a distance of 8,000 kilometers between Qatar and Japan, both countries have had a close relationship for over 40 years.

In the history of both countries, the supplying of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar to Japan commenced in 1997 and laid a large foundation for the development of bilateral relations. Taking this as an opportunity, Qatar has achieved remarkable development and currently leads the LNG business in the world. In February of this year, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the commencement of LNG supply to Japan, a commemoration ceremony was held in Qatar. I wish to express

my appreciation to Qatar for inviting many people from Japanese companies associated with the LNG business, including myself, to the ceremony, giving a wonderful opportunity for those concerned in both countries to share the delight of the 20th anniversary.

Following relations of mutual trust that have been fostered due to the stable supply of LNG for over 20 years, Qatar and Japan are deeply tied in broad fields, including politics, economics, culture, education and medical care.

An instance that symbolizes the deep ties between our two countries was the great support received from Qatar after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. Soon after the disaster, Qatar decided to supply additional LNG to Japan when energy security fell into critical situations at that time. Additionally, several projects, including a multifunctional fish freezing and processing facility in Onagawa, Miyagi Prefecture, called Maskar, were undertaken with support from the Qatar Friendship Fund that was created with a \$100 million donation from Qatar. Accordingly, restorations have been steadily advancing in disaster-stricken areas. Owing to such support, trusting relationships between our two countries have become something stronger.

In September, the JQFA invited the Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Japan His Excellency Yousef Mohamed Bilal, and those related to the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Japan and Qatargas Operating Company Ltd. for the Appreciation Gathering for Qatar's Support following the Great East Japan Earthquake. I believe this event provided a meaningful opportunity for the members of the JQFA to recall their feelings of gratitude toward Qatar and deepen bonds of friendship further with Qatar.

In early June, we were greatly surprised when neighboring countries suddenly cut ties with Qatar. We are not in a position to comment on political situations. However, whatever happens, the relationship of trust the JQFA has developed over the years with Qatar is solid and unwavering. As chairman of the JQFA, I would like to dedicate myself to further strengthening our bilateral ties and deepening our mutual interaction across broad areas in order for both countries to develop together going through any hardships.

In conclusion, I extend my most sincere congratulations on Qatar's continued prosperity and development under the superior leadership of H.H. Sheikh Tamim, and hope that our relationship of mutual trust will continue to develop further.



Tour of Qatar EMBASSY OF QATAR

Congratulations
to His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar on National Day



Enjoy our delicious Arabian cuisine prepared by our Arabian chef. All meat served is prepared in accordance with the Halal method.
Open: 5:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m. (Closed on Mondays)
Stark Tower Ohdorikoen Bldg. 1, B1F, 2-17 Yayoi-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama Tel: 045-251-6199



People gather at night at Souq Waqif. EMBASSY OF QATAR

Congratulations
to His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day

Marubeni
<http://www.marubeni.com>

Congratulations
to His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani
the Emir of the State of Qatar
on National Day



Mitsubishi Corporation